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P23964.a02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hiroaki SUZUKI

Mail Stop Issue Fee

Confirmation No.: 4418

Serial No. : 10/684,411

Group Art Unit : 2837

Examiner : PERKEY, William B.

Filed : October 15, 2003

For : A SWITCHING MECHANISM OF A LENS BARREL FOR SWITCHING
BETWEEN AUTOMATIC AND MANUAL FOCUSING MODES

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

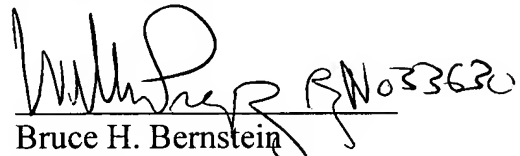
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
220 20th Street S.
Customer Window, Mail Stop Issue Fee
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the Patent and Trademark Office on April 16, 2004 and to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicant wishes to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicant does not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicant submits that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned
at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Hiroaki SUZUKI


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July 9, 2004
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